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KNAUF
ACUÑA

# ETERNALS

DIRECT EDITION



BEHOLD, MORTALS, THE ETERNALS! CREATED BY COSMIC BEINGS CALLED THE CELESTIALS AND TASKED WITH SAFEGUARDING THE EARTH, THE ETERNALS ARE AN IMMORTAL GROUP OF HEROES WHOSE NEAR LIMITLESS POWER IS UNLIKE ANYTHING HUMANITY HAS EVER KNOWN!


AJAK



EMBITTERED OVER THE *DREAMING CELESTIAL'S* REFUSAL TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM, *AJAK* ISOLATES HIMSELF FROM HIS BRETHREN, ONLY TO BE CALLED UPON BY IKARIS FOR A MISSION OF IMMEASURABLE IMPORTANCE. TASKED WITH THE INFILTRATION OF *DRUIG'S* NETWORK, AJAK ASSUMES A VITAL ROLE IN THE ETERNALS' FIGHT TO SAVE HUMANITY. BUT CAN THE JILTED MEDIUM BE TRUSTED?


IKARIS


DRUIG

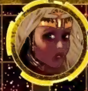
VENTURING EVER DEEPER INTO THE DREAMSPACE, THE ORIGINS OF DEVIANTS, ETERNALS, AND THE CELESTIALS THEMSELVES ARE REVEALED TO *MAKKARI*. THE CELESTIALS' MISSION: TO SERVE THE FULCRUM, AN INEFFABLE FORCE OF THE UNIVERSE FOR WHOSE PURPOSES ALL THINGS MUST BEGIN AND END. WHAT HAS YET TO BE REVEALED IS JUST WHO THE DREAMING CELESTIAL IS, AND WHY HE WAS LEFT BEHIND.




MAKKARI



EVERY MOMENT *THENA'S* SON JOEY REMAINS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ETERNALS, THE HORDE LEARNS MORE OF THEIR PLANS AND CAPABILITIES. NOW, UNABLE TO BRING HIM ALONG AS SHE AND *IKARIS* SEEK OUT NEW ALLIES, THENA DELIVERS JOEY TO THE SEAT OF THE ETERNALS' POWER, OLYMPIA AND *ZURAS*.


THENA


ZURAS

HAVING LOCATED *PHASTOS*, THENA AND IKARIS DEPART IMMEDIATELY FOR GERMANY TO SECURE HIS AID. BUT HALF A WORLD AWAY, *DRUIG'S* AGENTS ARE CLOSING IN ON *GILGAMESH* 'THE FORGOTTEN ONE,' AN ETERNAL SO POWERFUL THAT HIS ALLEGIANCE COULD ENSURE DRUIG'S SUCCESS...




JOEY (Thena's Son)

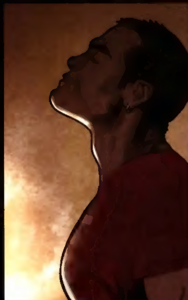
**ETERNALS No. 3, October, 2008**. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in August by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016.  $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.05 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; **Printed in the USA**. ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO of Marvel Characters, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Talent Management; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, VP Merchandising & Communications; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Director of Editorial Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; OMAR OTIEKU, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Mitch Dane, Advertising Director, at mdane@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

SAN FRANCISCO,
MAKKARI'S LOFT.





CLICK!





GUH--

UPON THE APPOINTED TIME, WE RETURNED TO YOUR PLANET, UNDER THE COMMAND OF ARISHEM...

...FOR THE SECOND HOST.

THE BALANCE HAD BEEN CLEARLY CAST IN FAVOR OF (CLASSIFICATION: DEVIANT).

I WAS THE ONE (KNOWN/ CALLED/CLASSIFIED) AS TIAMUT THE COMMUNICATOR...

MY FUNCTION WAS TO ALERT THE ONE ABOVE OF ALL OF OUR FINDINGS, THEN SEND A SIGNAL TO THE HORDE TO (GATHER/ HARVEST/CHANNEL) THE AGGREGATE PLANETARY LIFE-FORCE.

AFTER (CLASSIFICATION: CELESTIAL) GAMMENON, ESON, ONEG AND ZIRAN DEPARTED TO INITIATE SCANNING ON THE NEXT TARGET PLANET, ARISHEM ABORTED MY CONTACT WITH THE FULCRUM.

ARISHEM THEN INDICATED THAT THE FULCRUM HAD ORDERED US TO THIN THE (CLASSIFICATION/DEVIANT) INFLUENCE.

THE OTHERS PROCEEDED TO CULL THE (CLASSIFICATION: DEVIANT), SPARING THE BASE SPECIES.

THIS ORDER WAS (IRREGULAR/ILLOGICAL/ DYSFUNCTIONAL)...

I MADE THE JUDGMENT THAT ARISHEM WAS (MISGUIDED/ MALFUNCTIONING).

I WAS LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE PROTOCOL...

...BUT TO DISCHARGE ARISHEM AND ASSUME COMMAND.

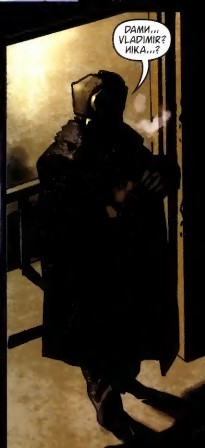

I HAD CONCLUDED ARISHEM WAS SIMPLY (MISGUIDED/MALFUNCTIONING) UNTIL I DETECTED SOMETHING ANOMALOUS...
...SOMETHING SO FOREIGN TO OUR FUNCTION I COULD NOT IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFY IT...
...HATRED.


VOROZHEIKA,
GENERAL STOYANOVICH'S
RESIDENCE.




ФLGA...? HELLФ? IS AИЧБФDЧ HФME?


CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!


DAMИ... VLADIMIR? ИIKA...?


ФLGA--


GOOD EVENING, GENERAL STOYANOVICH. YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR DINNER.


WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY FAMILY?


NOTHING PERMANENT. BUT IF YOU FIRE THAT PISTOL, I GUARANTEE ONE OF THEM WILL STOP THE BULLET.
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
WHO ARE YOU?


MY NAME IS AJAK. REALLY, GENERAL, YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME OF THIS CHICKEN BEFORE IT GETS COLD.
YOUR WIFE IS AN EXCELLENT COOK.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?


I NEED TO KNOW HOW DRUIG IS FINDING MY PEOPLE SO FAST.
YOUR PEOPLE...? I DON'T--
--KNOW. YEAH. I GOT THAT. I'M SPEAKING OF THE ONES HE HAS YOUR PEOPLE SEEK OUT AND SURVEIL.
HOW DOES HE DISCOVER THEIR NAMES, THEIR WHEREABOUTS...?


HE WON'T TELL ME.
BUT YOU WILL FIND OUT FOR ME.
I...I CAN'T. HE'S A VERY POWERFUL MAN. HE WILL KILL ME AND MY FAMILY IF I'M CAUGHT.


INTERESTING...
YOU FOUND GILGAMESH.


HOW DID YOU--?




I WAS GOING TO REPORT HIS LOCATION TO DRUIG TOMORROW MORNING.
I KNOW. BUT YOU WON'T. YOU WILL TELL HIM TOMORROW NIGHT.
YES.
AND YOU HAVE FOUND TWENTY-THREE OTHERS. IMPRESSIVE.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, GENERAL.


I'LL LEAVE YOU NOW, GENERAL, BUT REMEMBER...
...YOU WORK FOR ME. GET ME THE INFORMATION I NEED, AND I'LL SEE TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY'S PRO-TECTION...


MORE CABBAGE, DEAR?


HONEY...?
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY, DADDY?


ANTARCTICA, OLYMPIA, DOMAIN OF THE ETERNALS.
ZURAS AND JOEY ELIOT.
I'M BORED...
HMPH.


WHAT'S THAT?
THE CODICE OF YAX K'UK MO!
WHAT'S A CODICE?
A BOOK. GO PLAY WITH YOUR BOAT.


WHICH ONE IS YACK?
YAX. YAX K'UK MO! NEITHER ONE. PLEASE, I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE.
WHAT DOES IT SAY?


IF I KNEW WHAT IT SAID, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO CONCENTRATE! NOW, PLEASE, LEAVE ME ALONE!

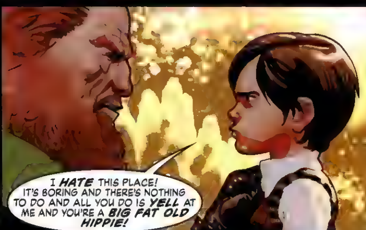

I--I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--


JOEY.


I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU.
GO AWAY.
THIS OLD ONE IS EASILY MANIPU-LATED...


YOU'RE ANGRY.
SPEAK YOUR *MIND,* BOY.
I CAN'T... I'LL GET IN TROUBLE.
HE CAN REVEAL MUCH TO US--DEFENSIVE CAPA-BILITIES, CONTINGENT STRATEGIES...HE WILL BE USEFUL.


IF YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH IN THIS REALM YOU WILL NEVER BE PUNISHED. THIS, I *PROMISE.* NOW...
...SPEAK YOUR MIND.


I *HATE* THIS PLACE! IT'S BORING AND THERE'S NOTHING TO DO AND ALL YOU DO IS *YELL* AT ME AND YOU'RE A *BIG FAT OLD HIPPIE!*














DREAMSPACE.

I HAD ASSUMED THE OTHERS WERE BLINDLY FOLLOWING ARISHEM'S CONVEYED ORDER...

...LOGIC THAT PROVED DEFECTIVE.

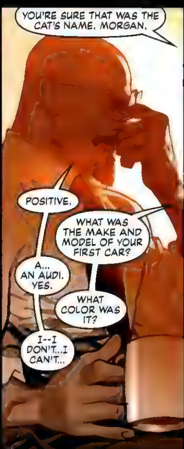
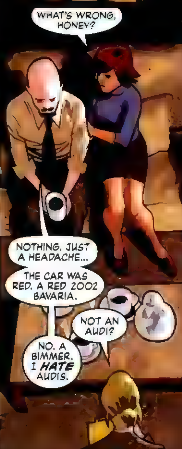
ALL FIVE HAD PLANNED THIS.
THE ENSUING BATTLE SHOOK YOUR WORLD TO ITS FOUNDATIONS...
IT SHAPED CONTINENTS.
...CARVED VALLEYS AND FORGED MOUNTAINS.

EVENTUALLY, I WAS OVERWHELMED.
WHY DIDN'T THEY KILL YOU?
A CELESTIAL CANNOT BE DESTROYED, MAKKARI, EVEN BY HIS FAMILIARS...
VWWSWSKGGH!
...BUT ONE CAN BE SILENCED.

ZUFFENHAUSEN, GERMANY.
THENA AND "PHILLIP STOSS."
I'M GLAD YOU FOUND THE TIME TO MEET WITH US, MR. STOSS.
OF COURSE. NOW YOU SAY I HAVE A, WHAT, UNCLE...?
ACTUALLY, IF WE'RE CORRECT, HE'S A COUSIN, THREE TIMES REMOVED. YOU WOULD BE HIS CLOSEST LIVING RELATIVE AND SOLE HEIR.
WAS THE ESTATE *SIGNIFICANT?*
NOT TERRIBLY. MOSTLY PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, A SMALL HOME IN WALDSHUT, A FEW STOCKS...
NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE BEEN CHARGED BY THE COURTS TO MAKE SURE THEY PASS TO THE RIGHTFUL HEIR.
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW PERSONAL QUESTIONS.
BY ALL MEANS.
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS?
NOT MUCH. THEY WERE KILLED IN A FIRE WHEN I WAS TWO.
I WAS SENT TO LIVE WITH MY GRAND-MOTHER IN DRESDEN. SHE LOOKED AFTER ME UNTIL I WAS SIXTEEN.
REALLY. WHAT WAS SHE LIKE, YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

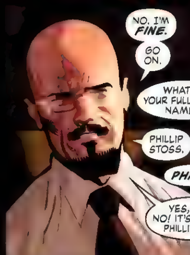

SHE WAS VERY SWEET. SHE LOVED TO BAKE STRUDEL. WE LIVED ABOVE A LITTLE TOY SHOP IN A SMALL VILLAGE IN THE SCHWARZWALD.
SOUNDS LIKE A STORYBOOK.
WE HAD A CAT NAMED MINNA. SHE USED TO FOLLOW ME EVERYWHERE.

WHERE DID YOU ATTEND COLLEGE?
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, COLOGNE. DID A LITTLE POST-GRAD WORK AT THE RHINELAND UNIVERSITY.
WHAT WAS YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME?
SCHMIDT. NO...
YES, SCHMIDT.
YOU'RE NOT SURE?
YES, I AM. HER MAIDEN NAME WAS SCHMIDT.

DID SHE HAVE A DOG?
YES, SHE--NO. IT WAS A CAT. MORGAN.

YOU'RE SURE THAT WAS THE CAT'S NAME. MORGAN.
POSITIVE.
WHAT WAS THE MAKE AND MODEL OF YOUR FIRST CAR?
A... AN AUDI. YES.
WHAT COLOR WAS IT?
I--I DON'T...I CAN'T...

WHAT'S WRONG, HONEY?
NOTHING. JUST A HEADACHE...
THE CAR WAS RED. A RED 2002 BAVARIA.
NOT AN AUDI?
NO. A BIMMER. I HATE AUDIS.


WHAT WAS YOUR CAT'S NAME?
MORGAN. NO, IT WAS-- DAMNIT...

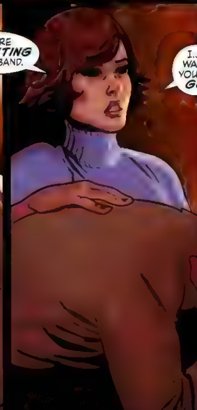

MAYBE YOU SHOULD COME BACK LATER, MISS ELIOT--


NO. I'M FINE.
GO ON.
WHAT IS YOUR FULL LEGAL NAME?
PHILLIP STOSS.

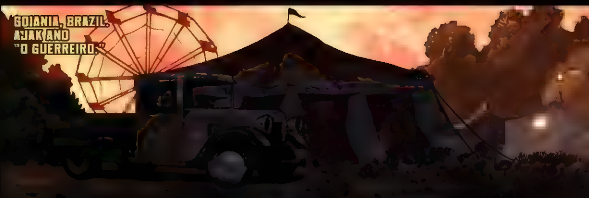

PHASTOS.
YES, PHAS-- NO! IT'S PHILLIP. PHILLIP STOSS!
AND MINE?
I-- I DON'T KNOW.


WHAT IS MY NAME?
I DON'T--


STOP CONFUSING ME!

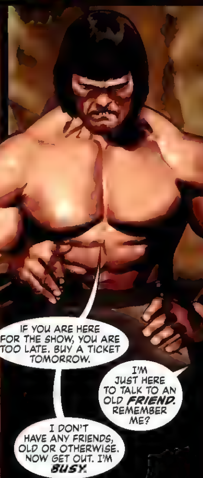

YOU'RE UPSETTING MY HUSBAND.
I...I WANT YOU TO GO.


OF COURSE. MY APOLOGIES. IT'S A VERY STRESSFUL PROCESS.
I'LL BE CONTACTING YOU.


GOIANIA, BRAZIL.
AJAK AND
"O GUERREIRO."


COISA STUPID DUM RAIO...
YOU'RE BLOCKING MY LIGHT.


"O GUERREIRO." THE WARRIOR. AN APT NAME, GILGAMESH.


IF YOU ARE HERE FOR THE SHOW, YOU ARE TOO LATE. BUY A TICKET TOMORROW.
I'M JUST HERE TO TALK TO AN OLD FRIEND. REMEMBER ME?
I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, OLD OR OTHERWISE. NOW GET OUT. I'M BUSY.


YOU NEVER WERE ONE FOR SOCIAL NICETIES, GILGAMESH.
YOU GOT ME MISTOOK FOR SOMEBODY ELSE, TOLO.
NO. THERE'S NO MISTAKING ONE SUCH AS YOU.
OKAY. THAT'S IT...




"ZURAS...

"...THENA...

"...SERSI...

"...MAKKARI...

"...IKARIS."



ANTARCTICA.
OLYMPIA.
SERSI.

LOCALIZE AND ISOLATE ANY PSI-WAVELENGTH READINGS OF TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN. CLASSIFICATION: CELESTIAL.

LOCATED...

TRANSLATE?

NEGATIVE. PSI-BURSTS CONFORM TO NO KNOWN LANGUAGE.

RECORD AND ANALYZE.

SPECIFY SOURCE.

CLARIFY.

READING TWO SOURCES. WAVELENGTH CLASSIFICATION: CELESTIAL...

...SOURCE ONE: PROTRACTED LOCAL TWO-WAY TRANSMISSION. LOCATION, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SO WHAT NOW?

YOUR PLANET IS AN UNPRECEDENTED SOURCE OF LIFE-FORCE.

IT HAS GONE UNHARVESTED FOR EONS. NO PLANET SINCE THE (BEGINNING/EXPLOSION/TERMINUS) HAS PRODUCED BASE SPECIMENS HARBORING SUCH PRODIGIOUS AGGREGATE ENERGY.

CATASTROPHIC (ASYMMETRY/DISPARITY) WILL RESULT SHOULD SUCH POWER BE (ACQUIRED/SECURED/WON) BY *EITHER* THE CELESTIALS OR THE HORDE.

THE BALANCE OF POWER WILL BE SKEWED HEAVILY IN FAVOR FOR THE RECIPIENT OF SUCH LIFE-FORCE, THROWING ORDER INTO CHAOS.

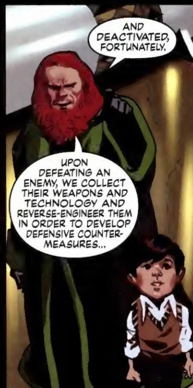
THIS WOULD DISPLEASE THE FULCRUM.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
(GATHER/ ANALYZE/COLLATE) INFORMATION FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE FULCRUM BEFORE THE HORDE ARRIVES FOR THE (GATHERING/ HARVEST).
THEN WHAT?
UNKNOWN. THIS SCHEMA IS UN-PRECEDENTED.
WHAT IF YOU CAN'T COMPLETE YOUR MISSION?
IF MY FUNCTION TO (GATHER/ANALYZE/ COLLATE) AND TRANSMIT IS COMPROMISED, THEN I MUST INITIATE THE SONG.
WHAT **SONG?** WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE SONG WILL LULL EVERY LIVING CREATURE INTO A STATE OF CATATONIA.
THE FULCRUM WILL EXTRACT ALL ENERGY AND RE-SCULPT THE PLANET...
...STARTING ANEW.
IS **EVERY** COSMIC BEING IN THIS UNIVERSE A TOTAL **TOOL?!**
YES.
WE ARE ALL TOOLS OF THE FULCRUM.

THE FATE OF YOUR PLANET RESTS IN YOUR HANDS AS WELL AS MINE, MAKKARI.
SO LONG AS I CAN (GATHER/ANALYZE/ COLLATE) THROUGH YOU...
"...OUR FUNCTION IS UNCOMPROMISED."
COMPUTER, ANALYZE SOURCE TWO.
SOURCE TWO: INTERMITTENT BURST-TRANS-MISSIONS INTO DEEP SPACE.
SOURCE TWO LOCATION?
TRIANGULATION NEGATIVE...
...SOURCE TWO TRANSMISSION: CURRENTLY INACTIVE.
HOLY *CRAP,* GRANDPA! WHAT IS ALL THIS?
A TROPHY ROOM, OF SORTS. WEAPONS AND TECH-NOLOGY CAPTURED FROM OUR ENEMIES.
MANY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY OUR HOME AND ITS HUMAN SUB-JECTS. NONE HAVE SUCCEEDED.
OUR MISSION SINCE THE DAWN OF HUMAN HISTORY HAS BEEN TO PROTECT THIS PLACE FROM ANY *THREAT,* ANYTHING THAT MIGHT--
--NO WAY...!


...IS THAT THE HULK?
NO, CHILD. THIS WAS AN ANDROID IMPOSTER POWERED BY COSMIC ENERGY. BUT IT WAS JUST AS POWERFUL AS THE REAL THING.
WHOA! DID MOM TAKE HIM DOWN?
NO, JOEY. THENA DIDN'T...

...I DID.

THIS STUFF IS DOPE!

AND DEACTIVATED, FORTUNATELY.
UPON DEFEATING AN ENEMY, WE COLLECT THEIR WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY AND REVERSE-ENGINEER THEM IN ORDER TO DEVELOP DEFENSIVE COUNTER-MEASURES...

EVERYTHING WE LEARN IS ENTERED INTO OUR COMPUTER DATA-BASE, THEN THE ITEMS ARE PLACED IN THIS COLLECTION.
COOL! CAN I SEE YOUR COMPUTERS?

OF COURSE...
MONITOR AND DISSEMINATE...

GOIANIA, BRAZIL.
AJAK AND GILGAMESH.

OUR GODS HAVE ABANDONED US.

OUR FELLOW ETERNALS HAVE JOINED WITH THE DEVIANTS. THEY RAPE AND DESTROY OUR WORLD.

*YOU* ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE STRENGTH TO STOP THEM.

FOR THE SAKE OF *EARTH,* FORGOTTEN ONE...

...YOU MUST *DESTROY* THE ETERNALS!

***HOLD ON TO THE SHREDS OF YOUR VERY SANITY, FANS!*** IF YOUR MINDS HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN ***UNHINGED*** BY THE ***EXPLOSIVE REVELATIONS*** OF THIS ISSUE, THEY ***WILL*** BE ***NEXT MONTH*** WHEN ***SERSI*** ATTEMPTS...

# TO SLAY A GOD!

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# Minutemen-WarMZone

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